5106 Wehawken Rd.

Bethesda, MD. 20816

May 25, 1999

Commissioner Jane E. Henney, M.D.

FDA

5600 Fisher Lane

Rockville, MD. 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney:

I strongly agree with the FDA's decision to allow foods such as meats, fruits, and vegetables to be irradiated. I t is yet another way science has saved thousands and thousands more lives each year. Three reasons I support food irradiation are that it kills deadly bacteria, many countries and groups are already using it, and the food doesn't become radioactive.

The *Washington Times* says "food-borne microbes kill 9,000 Americans each year while sickening another 81 million, according to the National Academy of Sciences." Food irradiation destroys deadly bacteria. In raw meat there is a deadly strain of E. coli and food irradiation is the only known method of destroying it completely. Thousands more strains of bacteria can also be destroyed or significantly reduced.

Who else is using food irradiation? Food irradiation has been approved and used by more than 40 countries. It is also endorsed by the UN, World Health Organization, the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Organization, the agricultural Department, and the FDA. One of the most important reasons is that it can help me, my family, and friends from getting really really sick or possibly dyeing!!

One final reason that I support the FDA's decision to irradiate foods is the fact that the foods that are irradiated do not become radioactive. Food that has been irradiated is no more radioactive than your hand after an X-ray. It also has no

radioactive material from the irradiation process

In conclusion I strongly support the FDA's decision to irradiate foods. For the three reasons I just presented. Plus the foods don't become radioactive so it cannot really harm you.

Sincerely,

Jack Beall

Jack Leall
5106 Wehawken RD.
Bethesda, MD. 20816

Cynthia Jenkings HFE-88
Ofc. Consumer Affairs
FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD. 20857